Atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh

845.SHRIC. M. Ibrahim: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approached the UN Human Rights Commission in the wake of rampant atrocities and human rights violations perpetrated on Hindu and other minorities in Bangladesh and a surge of fundamentalism sweeping that country following the recent change of Government regime in that country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and issues brought up before me Commission; and

(c) The response of the Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMARABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pendency of Passport applications at Bareilly Passport Office

846.SHRIRAMAMUNIREDDYSIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

« (a) the number of applications for Passports pending with the Passport Office, Bareilly at the beginning of 2002;

(b) the number of applications received by the Passport Office Bareilly since 10th January, 2002 (till date);

(c) the maximum and the minimum pendency period in respect of applications pending clearance at the beginning of 2002;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) what measures have been taken by Government to clear backlog of passport applications by the Passport Office Bareilly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) An application is considered pending after receipt of clear police verification report. The number of applications for

passports pending with the Passport Office Bareilly at the beginning of 2002 was 1382.

(b) The number of applications received by the Passport Office, Bareilly since January 10, 2002 till 28-2-2002 was 5236.

(c) The maximum and minimum pendency period in respect of applications pending clearance at the beginning of 2002 was 4 weeks and 2 weeks respectively.

(d) and (e) The number of passport applications rose from 34230 in the year 2000 to 42512 in the year 2001 which is an increase of over 24 per cent. The Passport Office is dealing with this increasing volume of work by a greater degree of computerisation and by improving the work culture of the staff. Pendencies are gradually coming down but their elimination depends on the number of fresh passport applications received.

Charges against criminals demanded by India from Pakistan

847. SHRI AMAR SINGH: SHRI C. M.IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of terrorists/criminals alongwith the charges against each for whose extradition have been demanded by Government from the Government of Pakistan; and

(b) Pakistan Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) On 31 st December, 2001 Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law who have been provided safe have in Pakistan, and asked the Pakistan authorities to apprehend and hand over these individuals so that they could be brought to justice for their crimes. Amongst the individuals figuring on the list are those responsible for heinous crimes including the Mumbai bomb blast in 1993, the hijacking of IC 814 to Kandhar in December, 1999 and the attack on India's Parliament on December 13,2001.

The Pakistani authorities have not taken any action on the list handed over to them and have sought to offer specious and untenable arguments. The President of Pakistan, in his address to the Pakistan nation on January 12, had